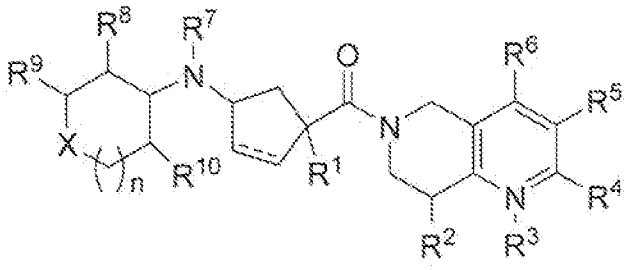
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A method for treating neuropathic pain comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the formula:



wherein:
R^1 is isopropyl, R^2 is hydrogen, R^3 is absent, R^4 is hydrogen, R^5 is $-CF_3$, R^6 is hydrogen, R^7 is hydrogen, R^8 is $-CH_3$ or $-OCH_3$, R^9 is hydrogen, X is oxygen, R^{10} is hydrogen, n is 1, and the dashed line is absent, so that the 5-membered ring has no double bonds, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

~~wherein:~~
~~X is selected from the group consisting of:~~
~~$-O-$, $-NR^{20}-$, $-S-$, $-SO-$, $-SO_2-$, and $-CR^{21}R^{22}-$, $-NSO_2R^{20}-$,~~
~~$-NCOR^{20}-$, $-NCO_2R^{20}-$, $-CR^{21}CO_2R^{20}-$, $-CR^{21}OCOR^{20}-$, $-CO-$,~~
~~where R^{20} is selected from: hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, benzyl, phenyl,~~
~~C_{3-6} cycloalkyl where the alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, and cycloalkyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, and trifluoromethyl,~~
~~where R^{21} and R^{22} are independently selected from: hydrogen, hydroxy,~~

~~C_{1-6}alkyl, $-O-C_{1-6}$alkyl, benzyl, phenyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl where the alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, and cycloalkyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2-C_{1-6}$alkyl, and trifluoromethyl;~~

~~R^1 is selected from:~~

~~$-C_{1-6}$alkyl, $-C_{0-6}$alkyl-$O-C_{1-6}$alkyl, $-C_{0-6}$alkyl-$S-C_{1-6}$alkyl, $-(C_{0-6}$alkyl$)-(C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl$)-(C_{0-6}$alkyl$)$, hydroxy, $-CO_2R^{20}$, heterocycle, $-CN$, $-NR^{20}R^{26}$, $-NSO_2R^{20}$, $-NCOR^{20}$, $-NCO_2R^{20}$, $-NCOR^{20}$, $-CR^{21}CO_2R^{20}$, $-CR^{21}OCOR^{20}$, phenyl and pyridyl,~~

~~where R^{26} is selected from: hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, benzyl, phenyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl where the alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, and cycloalkyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2-C_{1-6}$alkyl, and trifluoromethyl~~

~~where the alkyl and the cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-7 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from:~~

~~(a) halo,~~

~~(b) hydroxy,~~

~~(c) $-O-C_{1-3}$alkyl,~~

~~(d) trifluoromethyl,~~

~~(f) C_{1-3}alkyl,~~

~~(g) $-O-C_{1-3}$alkyl,~~

~~(h) $-CO_2R^{20}$,~~

~~(i) $-SO_2R^{20}$,~~

~~(j) $-NHCOCH_3$,~~

~~(k) $-NHSO_2CH_3$,~~

~~(l) heterocycle,~~

~~(m) $=O$,~~

~~(n) $-CN$,~~

~~and where the phenyl and pyridyl are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy and trifluoromethyl;~~

~~R^2 is selected from:~~

~~(a) hydrogen,~~

~~(b) hydroxy,~~

~~(c) halo,~~

(d) C_{1-3}alkyl, where the alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents independently selected from: fluoro, and hydroxy;

(e) $NR^{20}R^{26}$;

(f) CO_2R^{20};

(g) $CONR^{20}R^{26}$;

(h) $NR^{20}COR^{21}$;

(i) $OCONR^{20}R^{26}$;

(j) $NR^{20}CONR^{20}R^{26}$;

(k) heterocycle;

(l) CN;

(m) $NR^{20}SO_2NR^{20}R^{26}$;

(n) $NR^{20}SO_2R^{26}$;

(o) $SO_2NR^{20}R^{26}$; and

(p) =O, where R^2 is connected to the ring via a double bond;

R^3 is oxygen or is absent;

R^4 is selected from:

(a) hydrogen,

(b) C_{1-6}alkyl,

(c) trifluoromethyl,

(d) trifluoromethoxy,

(e) chloro,

(f) fluoro,

(g) bromo, and

(h) phenyl;

R^5 is selected from:

(a) C_{1-6}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro and optionally substituted with hydroxyl,

(b) O-C_{1-6}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro,

(c) CO-C_{1-6}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro,

(d) S-C_{1-6}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro,

(e) pyridyl, which may be unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of: halo, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, and CO_2R^{20};

(f) fluoro;

(g) chloro;

(h) bromo;

(i) C_{4-6}cycloalkyl;

(j) O-C_{4-6}cycloalkyl;

(k) phenyl, which may be unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of : halo, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, and CO_2R^{20};

(l) O-phenyl, which may be unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of : halo, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, and CO_2R^{20};

(m) C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro;

(n) O-C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro;

(o) heterocycle;

(p) CN; and

(q) CO_2R^{20};

R^6 is selected from:

(a) hydrogen;

(b) C_{1-6}alkyl; and

(c) trifluoromethyl

(d) fluoro

(e) chloro; and

(f) bromo;

R^7 is selected from:

(a) hydrogen; and

(b) C_{1-6}alkyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, CO_2H, CO_2C_{1-6}alkyl, and O-C_{1-3}alkyl;

R^8 is selected from:

(a) hydrogen,
(b) C_{1-6}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents where the substituents are chosen from the group: fluoro, C_{1-3}alkoxy, hydroxy, $-CO_2R^{20}$,
(c) fluoro,
(d) O-C_{1-3}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 fluoro, and
(e) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl,
(f) O-C_{3-6}cycloalkyl,
(g) hydroxy,
(h) $-CO_2R^{20}$,
(i) $-OCOR^{20}$,
or R^7 and R^8 may be joined together via a C_{2-4}alkyl or a C_{0-2}alkyl-O-C_{1-3}alkyl chain to form a 5-7 membered ring;

R^9 is selected from:

(a) hydrogen,
(b) C_{1-6}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents where the substituents are chosen from the group: fluoro, C_{1-3}alkoxy, hydroxy, $-CO_2R^{20}$,
(c) $-CO_2R^{20}$,
(d) hydroxy, and
(e) O-C_{1-6}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents where the substituents are chosen from the group: fluoro, C_{1-3}alkoxy, hydroxy, $-CO_2R^{20}$,
or R^8 and R^9 may be joined together by a C_{1-4}alkyl chain or a C_{0-3}alkyl-O-C_{0-3}alkyl chain to form a 3-6 membered ring;

R^{10} is selected from:

(a) hydrogen, and
(b) C_{1-6}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro,
(c) fluoro,
(d) O-C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and
(e) O-C_{1-3}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro,

~~or R^8 and R^{10} may be joined together by a C_{2-3}alkyl chain to form a 5-6 membered ring, where the alkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, $-CO_2R^{20}$, C_{1-3}alkyl, and C_{1-3}alkoxy,~~

~~or R^8 and R^{10} may be joined together by a C_{1-3}alkyl-O-C_{1-3}alkyl chain to form a 6-8 membered ring, where the alkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, $-CO_2R^{20}$, C_{1-3}alkyl, and C_{1-3}alkoxy,~~

~~or R^8 and R^{10} may be joined together by a -O-C_{1-2}alkyl-O- chain to form a 6-7 membered ring, where the alkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, $-CO_2R^{20}$, C_{1-3}alkyl, and C_{1-3}alkoxy;~~

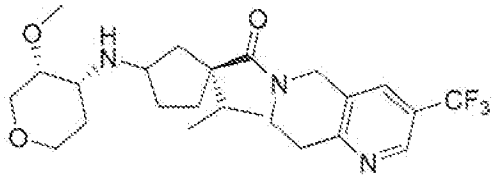
~~n is selected from 0, 1 and 2;~~

~~the dashed line represents the optional presence of a second bond to form a double bond;~~

~~and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and individual diastereomers thereof.~~

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A method for treating neuropathic pain comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the ~~formula:~~ formula below, or an individual diastereomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



5. (canceled)